

**DCFS**  
**Bureau of Regulation and Licensing**  
**HFS 46 Group Child Care Rule with Commentary**  
**March 2006**

**Chapter HFS 46**

**GROUP CHILD CARE CENTERS FOR  
CHILDREN**

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## **PREFACE**

### **HFS 46**

#### **GROUP CHILD CARE RULE WITH COMMENTARY**

Section 48.65, Wisconsin Statutes, requires that persons operating child care centers that provide, for compensation, care and supervision for 4 or more children under 7 years of age for less than 24 hours a day be licensed. The statute also requires the Department of Health and Family Services to establish rules which must be met in order to qualify for a license and which protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of the children in a child care center.

Chapter HFS 46 is the administrative code governing Group Child Care Centers that provide care and supervision for 9 or more children for less than 24 hours a day for compensation.

The purpose of the HFS 46 Group Child Care Rule with Commentary is to help users of HFS 46 understand the intent and application of the rule and to promote consistency in application of the rule. An attempt has been made to offer commentary for those rules where experience indicates clarification would be helpful. However, a commentary cannot be written to cover every situation encountered.

The portion of the publication that is numbered and in regular print is the administrative code HFS 46 and was prepared using the Wisconsin Administrative Register, No. 588, dated December, 2004 (effective date of rules-March 1, 2005). The portion of the publication that is within boxes and in *italicized print* is the commentary that was prepared by staff of the Bureau of Regulation and Licensing. A number of appendices have also been included to provide additional valuable information and guidance.

The publication is divided according to the sections of the rule, and the pages are numbered consecutively. There is a header on each page that contains the rule cite for the portion of the rule beginning on that page.

The HFS 46 Group Child Care Rule with Commentary was prepared primarily as a tool for licensing specialists. However, it may also be a useful resource for group child care providers. Providers who require additional information should contact their regional licensing specialist.

This publication may be duplicated, and it is available from the Department's web page [http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/rl\\_dcfs/INDEX.HTM](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/rl_dcfs/INDEX.HTM). Additional copies may be purchased (check or money order for \$20.00 made payable to Division of Children and Family Services) from any regional office listed in Appendix A or:

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